Gap between demand and production of fertilizers

*159. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the last three years there has been a gap between the production and the demand of fertilizers which had to be met by heavy imports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Fertilizers are imported to bridge the gap between the assessed requirement and indigenous availability; there was progressive decline in the level of imports during the last three years;

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Demand, productrion gap and imports during the last three years:-

(in lakh tonnes of nutrients)

DEMAND (CONSUMPTION) (N+P+K)	YEAR	PRODUCTION (N+P)	GAP (N+P+K)	IMPORTS (N+P+K)	REMARKS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
84.74	1985-86	57.56	27.18	33.99	Including provision
87.38	1986-87	70.70	16.68	23.10	for pipeline stocks
90.11	1987-88	71.31	18.80	9.84	Imports were less on account of large carry forward stocks of Urea due to quantum jump in production coupled with successive droughts during the preceding years.

Cultivation of Khejri Trees on Barren Sand Dunes

*160. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the barren sand dunes could be turned productive by cultivating Propsopis Cinenaria commonly known as the Khejri tree; and